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DATE: August 23, 2013

Subject: Question and Answer Set 5
Trinity and NERSC-8 Computing Platforms Project
LA-UR-13-26662

Greetings:

Interested parties are advised of the following questions or concerns that have been submitted to the Trinity and NERSC-8 Project team and to the accompanying Project responses below:

Question/Issue 1

Will the laboratories consider extending the due date for responses to solicitation #241314?

Project Response 1

The ACES and NERSC Project teams appreciate that potential offerors require a considerable amount of resources and effort to provide thorough and compelling responses to the NERSC-8/Trinity solicitation. However, no adjustment will be made to the proposal due date of September 10, 2013.

Question/Issue 2

Please explain how we are to determine the desired bandwidth for the PFS.

Section 3.3 sets a target ratio of JMTTI/Delta of 30. Table 4 also sets a target minimum JMTTI of 24 hours for LANL and 48 hours for NERSC-8. Using the minimum target JMTTI, one computes a target Delta of 48 minutes for LANL and 96 minutes for NERSC-8. Table 4 also sets a target maximum Delta of 20 minutes for LANL and 30 minutes for NERSC-8 which are much more aggressive than what is derived from JMTTI/Delta.

If a vendors solution has equal or better JMTTI (less than or equal to 24h (LANL) or 48h (NERSC-8), does the target PFS bandwidth go down proportionally?

Please provide some example cases.

1. For a LANL system configured with the minimum target memory of 2 PB and has JMTTI of 6 hours, what is the target PFS bandwidth?
2. For a LANL system configured with the minimum target memory of 2 PB and has JMTTI of 12 hours, what is the target PFS bandwidth?
3. For a LANL system configured with the minimum target memory of 2 PB and has JMTTI of 24 hours, what is the target PFS bandwidth?
4. For a LANL system configured with the minimum target memory of 2 PB and has JMTTI of 48 hours, what is the target PFS bandwidth?

Project Response 2

The PFS is primarily sized for application checkpoint/restart requirements, and JMTTI/delta is a measure of an applications total time to solution efficiency when using checkpoint/restart for recovery from failure, over a long period of time (days). The Offeror needs to size the PFS to satisfy both the delta and JMTTI/delta requirements. If the PFS is sized to meet the maximum delta and the target JMTTI is met then the JMTTI/delta requirement will also be met. If JMTTI is less than 10 hours for Trinity (30 * 20 min / 60 min/hr), or 15 hours for NERSC-8 (30 * 30 min / 60 min/hr), then delta needs to be reduced the appropriate amount to meet the JMTTI/delta requirement.

Question/Issue 3

The LANS solicitation #241314 indicates that the Options shall have warranty and maintenance. However, the matrix of System Options and Maintenance Options creates a much larger Pricing Volume than what is suggested in "Exhibit C Form A-1 Schedule of Proposed Quantities and Prices". Would LANS please confirm this need to supply warranty and maintenance pricing? If the aforementioned is required, what maintenance level should the supplier price out? Will LANS please provide guidance on how many years of maintenance should be priced per option?

Project Response 3

Any pricing of System Options should include a matrix of pricing for warranty and maintenance based on the suggested levels in the Maintenance Options portion of the RFP. Pricing should be based on a 12-month warranty period after the acceptance of the option plus three-years of maintenance after the warranty period.

Question/Issue 4

Would LANS please supply the expected Warranty period for the Trinity and NERSC base systems? Would LANS please supply the number of years of Maintenance a supplier should use in developing the base system pricing?

Project Response 4

The Warranty period for the base systems is 12-months after acceptance of the system. Maintenance pricing after the Warranty period, should be provided for each maintenance level specified in the Maintenance Options portion of the RFP per year for an additional three years.

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